

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of enabling payment of bills via a bill containing information relating to a requested payment, the bill including a plurality of tags, each tag containing coded data indicative of an identity of the bill and of a location of that tag on the bill;

receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from an optically imaging pen regarding the identity of the bill and a position of a nib of the pen relative to the bill, the pen, when placed in an operative position relative to the bill, generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data contained in a tag sensed by the pen; and

identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the requested payment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said at least one parameter relating to the requested payment is associated with at least one zone of the bill and in which the method includes identifying, in the computer system and from the zone relative to which the pen is located, said at least one parameter.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 which includes

receiving, in the computer system, data regarding movement of the pen relative to the bill, the pen sensing its movement relative to the bill using at least some of the coded data; and

identifying, in the computer system and from said movement being at least partially within said at least one zone, said at least one parameter of the requested payment.

4. [cancelled]

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, the method including the further steps of:

receiving, in the computer system, data from the pen regarding an identity of a person associated with the pen; and

identifying, in the computer system and from the data regarding the identity of the person, the requested payment.

6-7. [cancelled]

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the at least one parameter is an action parameter of the requested payment, the method including effecting, in the computer system, an operation in respect of the action parameter.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 in which the action parameter of the requested payment is selected from the group comprising:

requesting that payment be made, specifying a payment amount or resetting the bill to an original state.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the parameter is an option parameter of the requested payment, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the person has entered a hand-drawn mark by means of the pen and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the option parameter.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 in which the option parameter is associated with at least one of:

cardholder name, payment method or credit card type.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the parameter is a text parameter of the requested payment, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the person has entered handwritten text data by means of the pen and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the text parameter.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 which includes converting, in the computer system, the handwritten text data to computer text.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:

a cardholder name, an amount paid or a card expiry date.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the at least one parameter is an authorization parameter of the requested payment, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the person has entered a handwritten signature by means of the pen and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the authorization parameter.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 which includes verifying, in the computer system, that the signature is that of the person.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the authorization parameter is associated with payment authorization.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 which includes enabling the person to print the bill on demand.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 which includes printing the bill on a surface and, at the same time that the bill is printed, printing the coded data on the surface.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 which includes printing the coded data to be invisible to an average unaided human eye.
21. (Original) The method of claim 1 which includes retaining a retrievable record of each bill generated, the bill being retrievable using its identity as contained in its coded data.
22. (Original) The method of claim 1 which includes distributing a plurality of the bills using a mixture of multicast and pointcast communications protocols.
23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the pen contains identity data which imparts a unique identity to the pen and identifies it as being associated with the person and in which the method includes monitoring, in the computer system, said identity.
24. (Original) The method of claim 1 which includes providing all required information relating to the requested payment in the bill to eliminate the need for a separate display device.
25. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the bill is printed on multiple pages and in which the method includes binding the pages.
26. [cancelled]
27. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
a printer associated with the pen is caused to print a payment receipt after a payment has been completed.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the payment receipt comprises coded data indicative of the identity of the receipt.

29. (Currently amended) A system for enabling payment of bills via a bill containing information relating to a requested payment, the bill including a plurality of tags, each tag containing coded data indicative of an identity of the bill and of a location of that tag on the bill, the system including:

a computer system configured for:

receiving indicating data from an optically imaging pen, the indicating data being indicative of the identity of the bill and a position of a nib of the pen relative to the bill, the pen generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data contained in a tag sensed by the pen; and

identifying, using the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the requested payment.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 in which said at least one parameter relating to the requested payment is associated with at least one zone of the bill.

31. (Original) The system of claim 29 which includes the pen, the pen sensing its movement relative to the bill using at least some of the coded data.

32. [cancelled]

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is configured for:

receiving, from the pen, data regarding an identity of a person associated with the pen; and

identifying, from said received data, a requested payment, the pen containing the data regarding the identity of the person.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 in which the coded data is also indicative of at least one parameter of the requested payment, the computer system receiving indicating data

from the pen regarding said at least one parameter of the requested payment, and the pen sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data.

35. (Original) The system of claim 33 which includes the pen, the pen sensing its movement relative to the bill.

36. (Original) The system of claim 29 in which said at least one parameter of the requested payment is selected from the group comprising an action parameter of the requested payment, an option parameter of the requested payment, a text parameter of the requested payment, or an authorization parameter of the requested payment.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 in which the action parameter of the requested payment is selected from the group comprising:

requesting that payment be made, specifying a payment amount, or resetting the bill to an original state.

38. (Original) The system of claim 36 in which the option parameter is associated with at least one of:

cardholder name, payment method, or credit card type.

39. (Original) The system of claim 36 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:

a cardholder name, an amount paid, or a card expiry date.

40. (Original) The system of claim 36 in which the authorization parameter is associated with payment authorization.

41. [cancelled]

42. (Original) The system of claim 29 in which the pen contains identity data which imparts a unique identity to the pen and identifies it as being associated with a particular person.

43. (Original) The system of claim 29 in which the bill is printed on a surface and in which the system includes a printer for printing the bill on demand.

44. (Original) The system of claim 43 in which the printer prints the coded data at the same time as printing the bill or payment receipt.

45. (Original) The system of claim 29 in which the coded data is substantially invisible.

46. (Original) The system of claim 29 which includes a database for keeping a retrievable record of each bill generated, each bill being retrievable by using its identity as included in its coded data.

47. (Original) The system of claim 43 in which, to cater for a bill printed on multiple pages, the printer includes a binder for binding the pages.